

Traveller Information Sheets



SARS (Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome)

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), an atypical pneumonia for which cause has not yet been determined. Currently there are no travel restrictions on travellers to areas of risk.

Where is SARS?

SARS appeared in China in November 2002, in Guangdong province. SARS has also been diagnosed in Toronto in Canada, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Chinese Taipei, Singapore, and Hanoi in Viet Nam. Currently there are no reported transmissions of SARS.

Symptoms

- High fever (>38 degrees).

AND

- One or more respiratory symptoms including cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing.

AND one or more of the following:

- Close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with SARS.
- Recent history of travel to areas reporting cases of SARS.

ADDITIONAL symptoms may include:

- Headache
- Muscular stiffness
- Loss of appetite
- Malaise
- Confusion
- Rash
- Diarrhoea

Vaccination

Currently there is no vaccination available.

Reference

World Health Organisation, 2004, Geneva Switzerland, viewed 13th April 2014, <<http://www.who.int/ith/diseases/sars/en/>>

World Health Organisation, 2003, Geneva Switzerland, viewed 13th April 2014, <<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2003/pr23/en/>>